

Good form

Arrangements For a Card Party.
A hostess should always provide some prizes for a card party and thus show her guests that she does not expect them to play for money. To invite people to your house and then oblige them to do something of which they greatly disapprove is an unpardonable offense against good manners as well as good morals. It also shows a cruel lack of consideration for the young men who cannot afford to lose money. A girl can often escape by making some excuse, but for a man, who is supposed to be independent in money matters, this is more difficult. As gambling debts are very properly not recognized by the law and are therefore held to be debts of honor, a poor young man who is forced by a cruel or thoughtless hostess to incur such a liability is placed in a most unpleasant predicament.

Some excellent people think there is no harm in playing for small stakes—2 or 5 cents a point. But, whatever the personal views of the hostess at a card party, if she is a woman of good breeding she always arranges some tables for those who prefer not to play for money.

Since expensive prizes create envy and bad feeling it is better to select pretty trifles that please by their novelty, beauty or oddity rather than by their money value. The exact cost of these gifts will vary somewhat in accordance with the means of the giver and her friends. It would be in bad taste for the wife of a man living on a small salary to offer a prize that might be given without impropriety by the wife of a millionaire to her rich associates. Our circle of acquaintances usually know more accurately than we suppose the amount of our income and criticize any display of extravagance. The well bred hostess tries to avoid the two extremes of meanness and ostentation.

It is now thought best not to show the prizes until the end of the evening, and the consolation prizes are awarded by lot rather than to the poorest players.

It is important to have the seats of the right height so that the guests may be comfortable. Dining room chairs are better for the purpose than those usually found in a drawing room, the latter being too low and often too cumbersome. Light gilt chairs and card tables may be hired. If ordinary small tables are used they should be covered with a cloth to prevent the cards from slipping.

The supper may consist of chicken salad, ices and sandwiches, with hot coffee or wine cup. It may be more or less elaborate, as the hostess chooses. For an informal occasion among friends chocolate and cake or claret punch and some nice biscuits are sufficient.

The hostess herself does not play at a regular card party unless it should be necessary to fill a vacancy. It would be awkward for a late comer on her arrival to find every one deeply absorbed in cards and no one free to welcome and talk to her.

Answering a Dinner Invitation.
One rule will help the reader to make very few mistakes when answering any kind of a written invitation. If this be sent to you in a formal way, the hostess and host speaking of themselves and their guest—or using the "third person" for all names—then the reply should be sent in a similar form. For instance, if you have received an invitation that reads:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray request the pleasure of your company at dinner on Thursday evening, February the tenth, at eight o'clock, 54 Chester Avenue.

Then your answer must be as follows:

14 East Avenue, February 2, 1912.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward King accept with pleasure Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray's invitation to dinner on Thursday evening, February tenth, at eight o'clock.

This is written by you on plain note paper in the form shown and addressed to the hostess.

If you cannot accept a declination should be sent in this form:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward King regret that they are unable to accept Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray's invitation to dinner on Thursday evening, February tenth, at eight o'clock.

On Forgotten Courtesies.
Many men no longer consider it necessary to rise when a lady enters the room. If they proffer a chair it is seldom done with the old time alacrity, and a few trips on a city car will be sufficient to convince the veriest skeptic of the truth of courtesy's decadence.

Be it said in favor of men, continually on the rack regarding these omissions, that he is by no means the greatest offender. Women who entertain will tell you of the scores of invitations to which they have never even received the courtesy of an acknowledgment. "R. S. V. P." at the end of a card or note means nothing to women too thoughtless or too ill bred to take five minutes for a reply. Such treatment of a social courtesy is an offense garish enough to cause the offender's name to be struck from the model list of the hostess.

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VISIONS OF GHOSTS.

They Seem to Come to About One Person in Every Ten.

The modern theory of ghosts insists that invariably, when they are real ghosts and not the spurious product of credulity and deception, they are distinctly subjective in character and exist only by virtue of conditions permitting their creation in the mind of the person or persons seeing them. In other words, a real ghost is never an objective phenomenon, like a tree or a house. As a psychologist would say, it is always "a percept having no basis in external reality." Less learnedly, it is always a case of "seeing things where they ain't." That is to say, it is a hallucination.

It has been conclusively demonstrated that one person out of every ten has experienced at least one hallucination at some time in his or her life.

Proof of this results chiefly from a remarkable census of hallucinations originated more than twenty years ago at the international congress of psychology and simultaneously carried on—principally by members of the Psychological Research—in the United States, England, France, Germany and other countries. To thousands of persons the question was put, "Have you ever, when believing yourself to be completely awake, had a vivid impression of seeing or being touched by a living being or inanimate object or of hearing a voice, which impression, so far as you could discover, was not due to any external physical cause?" Of the 27,339 replies received to this question no fewer than 3,266 were in the affirmative—Hampton's Magazine.

Betting on Life's Chances.

Betting on other people's chances of life was a favorite amusement of the young blades of the eighteenth century and once led to a famous lawsuit. "Old Q," when Earl of March, laid a wager with a Mr. Pigot that that gentleman's father, aged seventy, would not survive Sir William Codrington, who was fifty. The odds were \$8,000 to \$2,500. Quite unknown to either, Pigot's father was actually dead at the time the bet was made, and Pigot refused to pay. March, however, sued him in court and after a sensational trial obtained a verdict in his favor.—London Chronicle.

Barring the Evil Spirits.

The Chinese believe that evil spirits are able to move only in straight lines and that they cannot penetrate through solid matter; therefore the problem of keeping them out of a dwelling or a garden seems to them a simple matter. On passing through the entrance of the ordinary middle class home in China it is necessary to turn to the right or left because of a fixed screen, the purpose of which, according to Popular Mechanics, is to keep evil spirits out. Likewise just at the back of the entrance to a walled garden may sometimes be found another wall erected for the same purpose.

AN ENGINE OF TORTURE.

The Pillory Was Not Abolished in England Until 1837.

The pillory was done away with by act of parliament in the year 1837, and it is amazing that it should have endured until that date, for it was a mode of punishment which could be made so extremely barbarous as to be a crying scandal to any nation. This engine of torture seems to have been known before the conquest under the name of "stretch neck," which is pleasantly suggestive of its functions.

Edward I. enacted that all stretch necks should be made of a proper size so that the life of the occupant should not be endangered, and a print of the reign of Henry III. shows very clearly what the pillory was like in those days. The culprit was mounted upon a stool, at one side of which was fixed a pole, supporting a pair of boards hinged together and with holes cut in them large enough to admit the wrists and neck.

The hands and arms were thus held on a level with the face, and the appalling stiffness which this must have caused can well be imagined. Thus confined and powerless, the offender was placed in some public spot, where the ruffian employed themselves hurling dirt, sticks and stones at him until they were tired or until the object of their sport succumbed, as not infrequently came to pass.

It would seem that primarily the pillory was intended for cheats of all kinds, such as mountebanks, fraudulent dealers in horses, coal, corn, etc., and we read in Fabian that the mayor of London in 1287 "did sharp correction upon bakers for making bread of light weight." He caused divers of them to be put in the pillory, as also one Agnes Daintie for selling of mingled butter." Soothsaying and other magic arts were also punished with the pillory.

It would appear that famous men did not appear in the pillory until after 1637, when a star chamber decree forbade the printing of any book or pamphlet without permission from the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of London or the university authorities and also made an order that any printer who did not conform to this and set up a printing press should not only be pilloried, but also whipped through the city of London.

Stafford is told by Garrard the way in which three men underwent their pillorings. "They stood two hours in the pillory. The place was full of people, who cried and howled terribly, especially when Barton was cropped. Dr. Bastwick was very merry. His wife, Dr. Poe's daughter, got on a stool and kissed him."—London Globe.

Intelligent Girl.

Maud—Why do you always wear gloves when you are playing cards?
Alice—Because Jack told me I must never show my hand.—Boston Transcript.

Oblivion is the flower that grows best on graves.—George Sand.

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THE GROWTH OF DECATUR, GA.

Transition From Village to Modern Town.

DUE TO ENERGY OF CITIZENS.

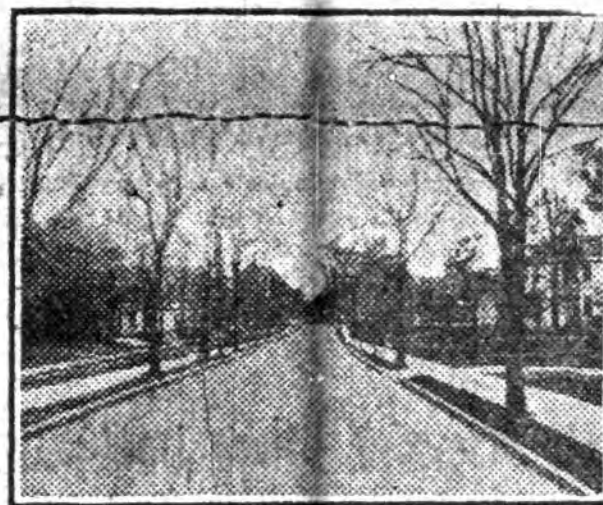
In Short Space of Six Years Small Country Village Became a Modern Suburban Municipality—Good Work of the Authorities.

As every man, in order to make the most of his life, should have constantly before him an ideal the realization of which is the goal of his every effort, so, we believe, every town or city should have an ideal toward the realization of which its citizens should constantly strive, says the American City. Decatur has for many years had an ideal, and the efforts of its citizens to realize this are attracting a great deal of attention among those interested in the development of that section.

Though Decatur is the county seat of DeKalb county, one of the most prosperous counties of Georgia, and though many of its citizens have large business interests, both mercantile and manufacturing, in Atlanta and other parts of Fulton and DeKalb counties, these men have never sought to make it an ideal residence town. To-day the leading citizens of Decatur are putting forth all their energies not toward enticing to the town manufacturing plants or other commercial enterprises, but almost entirely toward making the town an ideal place for residence and well known for that reason.

The 1910 census gave Decatur a population of 2,463, an increase of 73 per cent over that of 1900. The taxable values of Decatur have reached nearly the \$2,000,000 mark, and the actual values are probably about twice that amount.

Though it is hardly more than a village in size, its residents are demanding the same material comforts that they experience every day in the city of Atlanta, where a majority of them



ONE OF DECATUR'S RESIDENTIAL STREETS.

are engaged in business. In response to this demand from the taxpayers the town authorities have during the last four or five years laid nine miles of water mains, ten miles of sewers, nine and a quarter miles of the sidewalks and five miles of macadam streets, while a private corporation supplies the town with electric lights. During this same period a commodious public school building has been erected, and as an illustration of the rapid growth of the community the board of education is face to face with the problem of providing another school building in another part of the town. The Georgia railroad and two street car lines to Atlanta supply excellent transportation facilities, and the increasingly large number of automobile owners in all the suburban sections are demanding insistently that the three highways between Decatur and Atlanta shall be up to date in every particular. Plans are now under way, and work has actually been begun on these three highways. Equally insistent is the demand for a supply of gas for cooking and illuminating purposes, and those in closest touch with the material development of this suburban section believe that in a very short time gas will be provided for the residents of Decatur.

So within a short space of five or six years Decatur has been transformed from the condition of a mere country village to that of a thoroughly modern suburban town. Electric lights, a pure water supply, a sewerage system, modern streets, street car facilities and an up to date public school system have all come in response to the demands of its citizens that Decatur must be made an ideal residence town.

Health Board to Study Sewage Disposal.

A resolution favoring the creation of a sanitary department of the city board of health of Indianapolis, the proposed department to make an exhaustive study of garbage and sewage disposal, will be submitted for the advisory commission to Mayor Shank by Dr. B. A. Brown of the commission. Dr. Brown says he believes the study of garbage and sewage disposal should be on a nonpolitical basis and that this can only be assured by placing the matter under the health board, which Dr. Brown believes is as nearly nonpolitical as a municipal board can be. Mayor Shank says he is heartily in favor of the proposition and that if it is endorsed by the commission he will do what he can to have the recommendation carried out.

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